

in theme, the work was hailed as "masterly" by *The Times*, as "invaluable" by the *Observer**, as "true history" by the *Newcastle Chronicle* When the experts followed the journalists they had, out of self-respect, to ask some questions, and posit some doubts, but they too, had to and did pay tribute to the fullness, the accuracy, the lucidity and the power of the authors When *Industrial Democracy* followed three years later, the same chorus of praise was repeated with emphasis The common reader began by feeling that here was something he ought to read Rather apprehensively, he took it up and to his surprise, found that a work of economics could be as absorbing as any novel much more so than most Every-body read, everybody talked about *Trade Unionism* The authors could almost have said, if they had been so inclined, that, like Byron, they woke up one morning in 1894 to find themselves famous They were become, at a bound, public characters, and public characters of serious significance

That works, so new both in approach and in handling, in subject matter and in style, should make a great impression on their appearance, did not, of necessity, carry with it any assurance of wearing But *Trade Unionism* and *Industrial Democracy* have worn well Far from going out of circulation, or being superseded with the passage of time, they have not only come to be an indispensable part of the equipment of every serious student they have had, throughout the years, a steadily growing

ordinary
reading public Translated into seventeen
languages,
they are as readable, as intensely interesting
to-day, as
they were thirty years ago Anyone who
takes up either
of them, now, will find it impossible to lay it
down until
every page has been perused This is the
more note-
worthy in view of the fact that in 1894, the
Webbs, in
settling down to write about Trade Unions,
were pro-
posing to describe a part of life about which
few persons